



Hebburn Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
ON THE
Sanitary Condition of the District
during the year 1938.

HEBBURN-ON-TYNE :
Printed by SMITH BROS. (Hebburn & Jarrow), Ltd.
Lyon Street.

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HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1938—1939.

Chairman.

R. Ferguson, J.P.

Vice-Chairman.

C. G. Popay.

MEMBERS.

West Ward.

A. Iley.
Mrs. S. McIntyre.
J. Flannagan.

East Ward.

F. E. Bell.
J. McCourt.
J. M. Adair.

Central Ward.

J. H. R. Smith.
T. R. Johnson.
County Coun. C. Ellison.

Victoria Ward.

J. W. Falconer.
C. G. Popay.
W. Craig.

North Ward.

County Coun. J. M. Black.
Mrs. M. A. Peterkin.
G. Watson.

South Ward.

J. F. Martindale.
H. Oake.
R. Ferguson, J.P.

Monkton Ward.

Mrs. L. Wakefield, M.B.E.
J. Wright.
A. Carr.

Hospital Committee.

CHAIRMAN :

Mrs. L. Wakefield, M.B.E.

MEMBERS :

F. E. Bell.
Co. Coun. C. Ellison.
J. H. R. Smith.

T. R. Johnson.
H. Oake.
Mrs. M. A. Peterkin.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ARGYLE STREET,

HEBBURN,

JUNE, 1939.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebburn Urban
District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

The practice whereby the Report is drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health has been adhered to as in previous years.

The Birth Rate of 19.0 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population shows an increase on that of last year (16.9), and is still considerably above the Birth Rate of the Country as a whole, which is 15.1.

The Death Rate of 11.7 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, shows a decrease on that of the previous year (12.7), but the corrected Death Rate for Hebburn (14.3) remains higher than that of England and Wales (11.6). The Death Rate of 11.7 is the lowest ever recorded for Hebburn.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a very slight increase from 67.9 last year to 69.0 per 1,000 live births this year; but it still remains considerably above the rate for England and Wales (53 per 1,000 live births).

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System was 11, the lowest number ever recorded in the last 25 years. The number of deaths from Cancer, (42) is the highest ever recorded.

At the beginning of the year, Diphtheria was very prevalent, but gradually the epidemic declined and came to an end about the

summer. There was a slight increase in the number of notifications in the last three months of the year. The Wards most affected by Diphtheria during the year were the East, 15 cases, and the South, 14 cases.

Scarlet Fever showed a steady increase in prevalence during the early summer, but never reached epidemic proportions and gradually the number of cases notified became less and less towards the end of the year. The Wards most affected were the South, 16 cases, and the West, 12 cases.

On behalf of my predecessor, Dr. D. S. Buchanan, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their confidence and support during the year, and the Staffs of the Health Department and Isolation Hospital for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. FORREST,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer—D. S. Buchanan, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Resigned 31st December, 1938).

Sanitary Inspector—Robert McKellar, A.R.San.I., C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—Francis J. Thompson, C.R.S.I.S. I.E.J.B. (appointed 17th January, 1938).

Clerk and Shorthand-Typist in Health Department—Miss Irene Lomax.

Cleansing Superintendent—Thomas Taggart.

Matron of Isolation Hospital—Miss L. Aitken Blain, S.R.N., C.N.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—1,676.415 acres.

Population 22,950 (estimated by the Registrar-General for middle of 1938) representing an increase of 250.

Population of Wards—

East	2,350
Central	2,706
North	2,921
West	2,350
South	5,221
Victoria	5,238
Monkton	2,182

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book at end of 1938—6,115.

Rateable Value (at 31st December, 1938)—£88,229.

A penny rate represents £308.

Social Conditions.—The Area is almost entirely industrial in character. Shipbuilding, Shiprepairing and Electrical Engineering constitute the most important industries. In addition, a number of men are engaged in Marine Engineering, Paint and Copper Refining.

Unemployment.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Local Employment Exchange for the following particulars on unemployment:—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
Dec. 1927	3,486	95	111	145	3,837
Dec. 1928	2,192	156	64	189	2,601
Dec. 1929	1,083	44	78	98	1,303
Dec. 1930	1,957	69	98	103	2,227
Dec. 1931	3,580	277	88	91	4,036
Dec. 1932	3,931	294	101	94	4,420
Dec. 1933	2,911	265	76	75	3,327
Dec. 1934	3,065	321	97	193	3,676
Dec. 1935	2,793	230	81	179	3,283
Dec. 1936	1,958	98	174	140	2,370
Dec. 1937	1,585	152	144	157	2,038
Dec. 1938	1,422	112	162	211	1,907

Poor Law Relief.

The following information is kindly supplied by Mr. Walmsley, Public Assistance Officer:—

Average weekly No. of persons receiving out-relief during 1938	1,716
Average weekly No. of persons receiving in-relief during 1938	131
Total number of persons receiving in-door relief during 1938	379
Cost of Relief during 1938	£56,433

Poor Law Medical Out Relief.

No. of persons attended to during 1938:—

Men	150
Women	750
Children	300

NOTE.—The figures given above are all approximate.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	424	212	212	
Illegitimate	11	5	6	
				Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 19.0.
Still Births	22	16	6	
				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 48.1.
Deaths	269	151	118	
				Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 11.7.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 & 30 of the Registrar-General's short list):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
No. 29—Puerperal sepsis	—	...
No. 30—Other puerperal causes ...	2	4.38
	—	—
Total	2	4.38

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	69.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimates live births	66
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	182
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	42

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	3
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the Vital Statistics of the District for 1938 and previous years:—

Year.	Estimated Resident Population.	Births.		Deaths.		Infantile Mortality Rate.
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	
1928	24,530	640	26.0	311	12.6	95
1929	24,460	548	22.4	322	13.1	87
1930	24,460	525	21.4	322	13.1	108
1931	24,290	531	21.8	323	13.3	96
1932	24,150	442	18.3	311	12.5	104
1933	23,770	438	18.4	308	12.9	86
1934	23,740	464	19.5	307	12.9	108
1935	23,350	404	17.3	304	13.0	87
1936	22,939	430	18.7	305	13.3	90.7
1937	22,700	383	16.9	288	12.7	67.9
1938	22,950	435	19.0	269	11.7	69.0

Births.

During 1938, there were 435 live births as compared with 383 in 1937. The Birth Rate was 19.0 per 1,000 population.

Of the total births, 217 were male, and 218 female. There were 11 illegitimate births (5 male and 6 female) or 2.5 per cent. of the total live births.

The birth rate of the district as compared with that of the Country generally, is as follows:—

England and Wales	15.1
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	15.0
148 Smaller Towns	15.4
London Administrative County	13.4
Hebburn	19.0

Ward.	Births.	Birth Rate, per 1,000 population.
East	52	22.1
Central	39	14.4
North	86	29.0
West	46	19.5
South	73	13.9
Victoria	65	12.4
Monkton	34	15.5

Still Births.

The number of still births registered during 1938, as supplied by the Registrar General, was:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	16	6	22
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Still births in Hebburn compared with the Country generally, were as follows:—

	Per 1,000 population.
England and Wales	0.60
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	0.65
148 Smaller Towns	0.60
London Administrative County	0.48
Hebburn	0.96

Deaths.

There were 269 deaths, (151 males and 118 females) during 1938, as compared with 288 in 1937, giving a Death Rate of 11.7.

Ward.	Deaths.	Death Rate, per 1,000 population.
East	31	13.2
Central	30	11.1
North	36	12.3
West	39	16.5
South	64	12.2
Victoria	51	9.7
Monkton	17	7.8

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Cause.	Number.	Percentage of Total Deaths.	
Diseases of the Heart and Circula- tory System	76	...	28.2
Pneumonia	21	...	7.8
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	11	...	4.0
Cancer	42	...	15.6
Diseases of early infancy and con- genital malformations	14	...	5.2
Cerebral haemorrhage	13	...	4.8

The corrected death-rate for Hebburn as compared with that for the Country generally, is as follows:—

England and Wales	11.6
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	11.7
148 Smaller Towns	11.0
London Administrative County	11.4
Hebburn	14.3

The age at death is summarised, as follows:—

	No. of Deaths.	Percentage of Total.	
Under 1 year	30	...	11.1
1—5 years	12	...	4.4
6—15 years	5	...	1.8
16—25 years	18	...	6.6
26—45 years	26	...	9.6
46—65 years	80	...	29.7
65 years and upwards	98	...	36.4

The following table shews the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males.	Females.
All Causes.			151	118
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...
2	Measles	...	2	1
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
4	Whooping-Cough	...	...	1
5	Diphtheria	...	1	1
6	Influenza	...	2	...
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	1
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	7	4
10	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	2	6
11	Syphilis	...	...	...
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	1	...
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	23	19
14	Diabetes	...	1	...
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	7	6
16	Heart disease	...	31	29
17	Aneurysm	...	1	...
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	7	9
19	Bronchitis	...	8	2
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	12	9
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	1	...
22	Peptic ulcer	...	3	...
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	1
24	Appendicitis	...	2	...
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	...
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	3	2
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	2	4
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	2
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	9	5
32	Senility	...	5	1
33	Suicide	...	2	1
34	Other violence	...	7	2
35	Other defined diseases	...	11	11
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...

Deaths of Residents not registered in the District:—

Institution or District.	Total Deaths.
South Shields General Hospital	40
Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	16
Princess Mary Maternity Hospital	3
Sailors' Hospital, South Shields	1
Carlisle	1
Leazes Hospital, Newcastle	3
Newcastle General Hospital	5
Winterton House, Sedgefield	4
Jarrow	1
Durham Infirmary, Old Elvet	1
West Wylam	1
Wolsingham Sanatorium	1
Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle	3
Babies Hospital	1
Consett	1
South Shields Ferry Landing	1
	—
Total	83
	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 30 deaths of children under one year which gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 69.0 per 1,000 live births.

Of the 30 deaths, 18 occurred among males and 12 among females, Infantile Death Rates of 83.0 and 55.0 per 1,000 live births respectively.

Neo-natal deaths, or deaths occurring in the first month of life numbered 16, or 53.3% of the total number of infant deaths. Of this number 8 died in the first week of life, or 26.6% of the total number of deaths.

The chief causes of death in the first month of life were prematurity, accounting for 62.5% of the total, and congenital defects equal to 12.5% of the cases.

During the remainder of the first year of life the chief causes of death were: Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Measles, and Diarrhoea.

Deaths among illegitimate infants numbered 2 out of 11 illegitimate live births, or a rate of 182 as compared with a rate of 66 among legitimate infants.

Comparison with the rate for England and Wales:—

	All infants per 1,000 live births.
England and Wales	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	57
148 Smaller Towns	51
London Administrative County	57
Hebburn	69
Ward.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
East	77
Central	77
North	93
West	65
South	82
Victoria	61
Monkton	62

DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The principal infectious diseases were responsible for the following deaths:—

Disease.	No. of deaths.	Hebburn D. Rate per 1,000 popul'n.	England & Wales.
Scarlet Fever	—	—	0.01
Diphtheria	2	0.09	0.07
Measles	3	0.13	0.04
Whooping Cough	1	0.05	0.03
Influenza	2	0.09	0.11
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	1	2.5	5.5
		per 1,000 live births.	

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

For detailed list of the staff of the Public Health Department see page 6.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change has taken place in the arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners, the Infectious Diseases' Hospital and the Health Department are examined and reported upon at the Bacteriological Department of the College of Medicine, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Below is a list of the specimens examined during the year:—

	Negative.		Positive.		Total.
Diphtheria	298	...	145	...	443
Tuberculosis	56	...	8	...	64

The bacteriological examination of milk and water is carried out at the Bacteriological Department, Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, and at J. & H. Pattinson, Public Analysts, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Eleven samples of milk for B.Coli and count were examined. The results of these analyses are alluded to later in the report.

(b) **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a horse ambulance is provided and kept at the Infectious Diseases' Hospital.

Arrangements exist whereby Moon's Ambulance Service provide an ambulance for conveying cases of infectious disease to hospitals in other areas when the necessity arises.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by an ambulance which is maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association, which is available for the inhabitants of the area, as the result of an arrangement made by the Local Authority with the Association.

I should like to pay tribute to the splendid service which is given by this Association to the Community.

(c) **NURSING IN THE HOME.**

1. **General.**—There are two voluntary nursing associations in the District, each of which maintains a visiting nurse.

During 1938, the total number of cases visited was 280, entailing 7,039 visits. The Local Authority make an annual grant of £25 to each Nursing Association.

2. The arrangements for Infectious Cases, Tuberculosis, and Midwives remain the same as in previous years.

(d) **CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.**

Every part of the Health Department and Clinics is now used to the utmost during the whole of the week.

The following table gives a summary of the Clinics and Treatment Centres available for the inhabitants of the District;—

Clinic.	Situation.	Sessions.	Provided by.	Work Done.
Maternity & Child Welfare	Health Department	6 per week.	Durham County Council.	Infant Consultation. Ante-Natal. Post-Natal. Sun-Ray. Dis. of Food, etc.
School Clinic	Health Department	Daily. 9—11 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday, 2—3 p.m. Dr. in attendance. Dental Clinic Daily.	Hebburn U.D.C.	1. Treatment of Minor Ailments. 2. Consultations and advice. 3. Inspection of special cases. 4. Dental Work. 5. Refractive work. 6. Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic.
Tuberculosis Clinic	1, Kent St., Jarrow.	Monday (Women & Children) 9-30 a.m. Wednesday (Men & Boys over 12 yrs). Tuesday 9-30 a.m.—12 noon—dressings and tuberculin. Friday 9-30 a.m.—12 noon—dressings and tuberculin.	Durham County Council.	1. General consultations.
Venereal Diseases	General Hospital, Ncle.	Treatment. Mon.—Sat. 7-30 a.m.—7-30 p.m. Sunday. 10 a.m.—12 noon. Medical Officer's Hours. Mon.—Frid. 10 a.m.—12 noon. 3 p.m.—7 p.m. Saturday. 10—11 a.m. 4-30 p.m.—6-30 p.m.	Durham County Council.	1. Consultations. 2. Treatment.

(e) HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

1. **Fever.**—The number of cases admitted to the Fever Hospital during the year was 131, of whom 69 were notified as Scarlet Fever (1 case measles), and 62 as Diphtheria.

2. Arrangements for the treatment of Smallpox, Tuberculosis, Diseases of Children, Orthopaedic, General Medical and Surgical cases remain unaltered.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are now run entirely by Durham County Council. A service of six clinics weekly is provided.

SECTION C.
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.

No change in the arrangements for water supply has taken place. Quality and quantity are satisfactory.

WELLS.

Burn Head Farm.—Samples of water taken from this well were found to be unsatisfactory. The owner has now provided this farm with a direct water supply from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and we have advised the occupier to discontinue using this well-water for domestic purposes.

I am indebted to the Surveyor (Mr. E. G. Lediard, A.M.Inst. C.E.) for the following information:—

“Drainage and Sewerage.—No actual extension to the sewerage system has been carried out, but details are being collected and surveys made for a future scheme.”

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

Report on investigation of the Bede Burn and land adjoining Bede Well, and also interview with Mr. Parry, County Health Inspector and a County Representative of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Committee.

In consequence of complaints received of the pollution of the Bede Burn a thorough inspection of this water course was made.

The complaints were to the effect that at certain points the stream was dry—even in rainy period, and at another point (where there is a public footpath—therefore a-right-of-way) the area was absolutely waterlogged. As a result of which, pedestrians have to take a circuitous route, which may involve trespass, instead of following the normal footpath leading to the stile on Mill Lane.

The inspection was commenced at a point where the burn passes a small footbridge at the eastern end of the Hebburn Park, where the water seemed visually of a fair standard and carried marine life (Minnows). Thence passing up stream the burn skirts the western edges of the three Hebburn Hall Ponds, where it was noted that a stone dam had been inserted in the course of the stream at the south-west corner of the lower pond. Along the western side of the second pond lie a number of Allotment Gardens, and despite notices carrying warnings to the contrary, evidence was found that the burn had been used as a convenient dump for garden refuse of all types. Upon comparing the course of the Bede Burn, as outlined on the Official Ordnance Survey Maps, with that actually found—it seems apparent that the original flow of water has been diverted so that the water enters the second pond at its southern end and receives therefrom an overflow at its northern end.

More to the south—just east of the Burn Head Farm, where the stream seems once to have flowed in an arc below a stone-bridge—its course appears to have been cut more straight; and the area of land occupying the segment of this arc is now waterlogged, and at times subject to flood and even in dry weather is marshy and almost impassable,

At the above point there was a tinge of oil in the waterway, but upon tracing the course southwards to a point where it passes below the roadway to the west of Mill House Farm, this appeared to be due to road surface washings.

The general condition of the stream along the whole length of the ponds is that it is overgrown with weeds and rushes and, in part, covered with green slime. It requires cleansing and regrading.

The nuisance of garbage deposition must, of necessity, be attended to; and the diversion of the stream from its original course into the ponds should be filled up. The burn is naturally independent of the ponds and its separation, therefore, must conform to the statutory requirements of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

There seems no reason why, if the recommendations of the preceeding paragraph are carried out, that this burn should not become a perfectly natural waterway following its own bed.

Bede Well.

Our attention having been drawn to the condition of the area adjacent to the Bede Well, we have made a thorough investigation to establish the source of the pollution. During this investigation the pollution was found to be coal dust or "slurry" traced to a private drain, the line of which appears to be in our area. Thence into a neighbouring Authority (Monkton), returning again into our area at a point south of the Pontop Railway and appears to go along the south side of the Pontop Railway in the direction of the Coke Ovens and Wardley.

The attention of the Owners of J. Bowes & Partners Collicries and the Coke Ovens were drawn to this matter and a further investigation was made with Mr. Elson (Agent for Bowes & Partners) and Mr. Corker of the Coke Ovens. An assurance was given that an inquiry would be made to trace the source of pollution and a report given of their findings.

As this matter affects the Jarrow Authority we deemed it advisable to draw their attention to this serious pollution.

Great difficulty was experienced in establishing which was our defined boundary in this area. It would appear, however, that the Bede Well and the path therefrom to Monkton are excluded.

To deal with this pollution joint action with Jarrow will be necessary. We would recommend that this course be adopted.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector.

3. (i) **CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

The following table shows the number of sanitary conveniences in the District.

		Privy Ash-pits.	Privy Box-closets	Water- closets.	Total.
WEST WARD	...	...	...	526	526
CENTRAL WARD	...	...	...	692	692
NORTH WARD	...	...	...	785	785
EAST WARD	...	...	1	448	449
VICTORIA WARD	...	...	...	1410	1410
SOUTH WARD	...	1	2	1298	1301
MONKTON WARD	...	...	5	511	516
TOTALS	...	1	8	5670	5679

The privy boxes and ashpits in use in the Area are situated as follows:—

SOUTH WARD—

Waterworks House	1 Ash Pit.
Blue House Farm	1 Box Closet.
Newlands House	1 „ „

EAST WARD—

United Methodist Chapel 1 Box Closet.

MONKTON WARD—

Quarry Houses 4 Box Closets.

Red House Farm 1 Box Closet.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.**Report of Cleansing Superintendent.**

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1938.

Daily inspections of the district have been made and the work of Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing has been maintained to satisfaction.

The Costing Returns for the year ending 31st March, 1938, which were forwarded to the Ministry of Health, are herewith appended, the expenditure for the Cleansing Services in general being satisfactory in view of the development and expansion of the district.

The tabulated loads and the quantity of refuse collected and disposed of during the year is also shown herewith.

Considerable efforts have been made to maintain the cleanliness of the district, and no serious complaints have arisen during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS TAGGART,

Cleansing Superintendent.

General.

It is important to note that a change in the system of Refuse Disposal has been introduced.

The method of disposal now adopted is that of Controlled Tipping, and it replaces the old method of Barging to Sea which has been in operation in this district for a great number of years.

The costs of the Cleansing Services shewn on tables B and C for the year ending the 31st March, 1938, include the sum of £108 11s. 7d. for Capital Improvements at the Council No. 1 Depot.

It should be noted that, as in the case of many other Local Districts, the mileage of streets and the number of houses and premises in this District are steadily increasing year by year.

Therefore it is obvious that additional work is involved, and, in order to maintain efficient and economical services, keen supervision and attention has to be given.

Street Cleansing.

No serious complaints or difficulties have arisen during the year in this service.

There are now 27.92 miles of streets in the district, of which 1.4 miles are swept daily, .87 miles three times weekly, 3.05 miles twice weekly, and 22.6 miles of streets at least once weekly.

Altogether 28,103,270 sq. yards of streets have been cleansed during the year.

The district is divided into eight cleansing areas, and street sweepings are collected daily from street orderly bins deposited at convenient depots in each area.

Considerable efforts have been made to suppress the scattering of street litter. Appreciable results are achieved by employing two youths solely for collecting street litter.

There is still an inadequate number of litter bins in the district. The Advertising Companies, who supply these litter bins free of cost, have been approached to increase their efforts in order that we may obtain more receptacles, but up to the present they have been unable to meet our requirements. The difficulty is, that no litter bins can be supplied until advertisements are obtained for same, and the local tradespeople do not seem inclined to advertise in such a manner, probably on account of the terms and rentals demanded by these Companies.

Nevertheless, an improvement in these conditions in the near

future is hoped for, and persistent efforts will be made to increase the number of litter bins.

Street gully cleansing is done by means of a Karrier Colt Mechanical Gully Cleanser. The capacity of the tank-body of this machine is 400 gallons, which includes a 250 gallons sludge compartment and a 150 gallons water compartment.

Street washing is also done by this machine.

There are 2,140 street gullies in the district which are cleansed at the average rate of twelve cleansings per annum. Many of the back street gullies however are cleansed at the rate of twenty cleansings per annum.

The sewers in the district are systemically flushed and cleansed. This work is done by a horse-vehicle with flushing tank of 350 gallons capacity. The sewers and drains in general were kept in good running order and no serious complaints were recorded.

Particular attention has been given to the areas where slum clearance and building alterations are in progress, in order that the streets adjoining these sites are kept as clean as possible, and free from debris or building material such as sand and cement, which as well as being a dangerous obstruction to traffic, may cause a considerable amount of damage to drains. Much inconvenience has been caused by the carelessness of the Contractors concerned, in neglecting to remove such material as quickly as possible, but I may state that prompt action has been taken in such cases. However, this problem is generally a difficult one, particularly at the present time when so many building alterations are in operation in this District.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

No serious complaints or difficulties have arisen during the year in this service.

At the 31st March, 1938, there were 6,170 houses and premises from which refuse was collected and disposed of. This shows an increase of 180 houses and premises since the corresponding month of last year.

It should be noted that, although the weight of refuse from the modern type of houses built to-day is much lighter than that from the old tenements, the collection of refuse from these houses entails longer carries for the loaders, and obviously tends to decrease the speed of the work and increase the cost of the service.

84% of refuse collection work was done with mechanical vehicles and 16% with horse-vehicles.

There are two mechanical vehicles engaged on House Refuse Collection, namely, a 3 ton Leyland Cub Refuse Collector with a 7 cubic yard body, and a 2-2½ ton Karrier Bantam Refuse Collector also with a 7 cubic yard body. The latter machine is in its fourth year of service and is now showing signs of wear which will have to be considered within the next twelve months. The Leyland Motor however is in its fifth year of service and is still in good condition.

Refuse Collection Work in general has been carried out to satisfaction, and the above vehicles have given fairly good service during the year.

Each vehicle is manned with 4 loaders.

One horse vehicle and one loader are also part-time engaged on House Refuse Collection and part-time on Scavenging Work.

Trade Refuse is collected from shops, etc., on an average of three collections per week, and one horse vehicle and one loader are continually on this work.

The system of Refuse Disposal now adopted by this Authority is Controlled Tipping, but it has only been in operation since the 19th March, 1938.

The Ministry of Health precautions regarding Controlled Tipping have been observed.

The whole of the refuse is tipped on vacant land belonging to Messrs. A. Reyrolle & Co., Ltd.

The tipping ground is situate at the west boundary of the Company's Works, and is suitably distant from the residential area.

By the kind permission of this Company we are allowed to use this site for tipping purposes free of cost, and therefore are able to effect a considerable saving in the cost of Refuse Disposal.

The Council's Hopper Barge was sold to Messrs. Dorman Long & Co., Ltd., on the 19th March, 1938, and realised the sum of £1,520.

The Council's Jetty and Land was sold to The Tyne Improvement Commission on the 1st April, 1938, and realised the sum of £2,500.

Up to the present, satisfactory progress has been made in the development of the tipping ground, and no serious complaints have arisen as the result of controlled tipping operations on this site.

During the year 85.7% of the refuse collected was disposed of by Controlled Tipping and 14.3% by Barging to Sea.

Collection of Refuse.

1938	HOUSE REFUSE.		TRADE REFUSE.		
	Motor Loads.	Cart Loads.	Cart Loads.		
Jan.	233 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	62	...	94
Feb.	230	...	30	...	112
Mar.	259 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	39	...	106
April	265 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	28	...	96
May	246	...	36	...	106
June	211 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	56	...	82
July	231 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	40	...	97
Aug.	223 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	59	...	99
Sept.	227 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	21	...	104
Oct.	241 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	45	...	96
Nov.	242 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	32	...	97
Dec.	267	...	74	...	101
TOTAL	2880 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	522	...	1190

Scavenging (Cully Sludge, Sweepings, etc.).

	Motor Loads.	Cart Loads.
January	37	32½
February	31	56
March	42	46
April	39	59
May	33	49
June	32	46
July	20	57
August	38	66½
September	31	71
October	23	55
November	46	63
December	27	34
	<hr/> 399	<hr/> 635

Collection of Refuse (Year ending 31st December, 1938).

Collection of House and Trade Refuse	8,310 tons.
„ „ Street Sweepings & Gully Sludge...	644 tons.
„ „ Shipyard Trade Refuse (at a specified Charge)	170 tons.
	<hr/>
Total	9,124 tons.

Removal and Disposal of Refuse.

Barged to Sea.	1,305 tons.
Controlled Tipping	7,819 tons.
	<hr/>
Total	9,124 tons.

Table B.

House and Trade Refuse.

Table showing Costs for the Year ended 31st March, 1938.

Item. (1)	Particulars. (2)	I.—Collection, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		II.—Disposal, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		Total, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded	
		Included (3)	Excluded (4)	Included (5)	Excluded (6)	Included (7)	Excluded (8)
	Revenue Account.	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	Gross Expenditure	2904	2904	1544	528	4448	3486
2	Gross Income ..	31	31	96	96	127	127
3	Nett Cost	2873	2873	1448	486	4321	3359
	Unit Costs.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
4	Gross Expenditure per ton	6 11	6 11	3 8	1 4	10 7	8 3
5	Gross Income, per ton	0 1	0 1	0 2	0 2	0 3	0 3
6	Nett Cost, per ton	6 10	6 10	3 6	1 2	10 4	8 0
7	Nett Cost per 1000 population ..	£ 126	£ 126	£ 64	£ 21	£ 190	£ 147
8	Nett cost, per 1000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ..	465	465	235	79	700	544

Total refuse collected (in tons) (See note (c))—(E)—8,417.

Population; Midsummer, 1937 (See note (d))—22,700.

Area (Statute Acres) Land and Inland Water—1,676.415 acres.

Weight—(in cwt.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) 20 cwts.

Number of houses and premises (see note (e))—6,170.

14.

	No. of Vehicles.	Percentage of refuse collected.
Horse vehicles	2	16%
Mechanical vehicles	2	84%
Container system	—	—
(combination of mechanical and horse vehicles)	—	—

15. Method of Disposal—

Crude tipping	26%
Controlled tipping (i.e., on lines of Ministry's precaution for tipping)	7%
Barging to sea	67%
Pulverisation	Nil.
Incineration	Nil.
Separation and Incineration	Nil.
Other methods (specify)—Filling up Farmers' land and allotments with dry, clean ashes	Nil.

16. Average length of haul to point of disposal—1 mile.

Average weight of Refuse per 1,000 of Population per day (365 days to year) and average cost per ton of Refuse Collection and disposal.

Class of Authority.	Average wt. per 1,000 of population per day.	Average cost per ton.			
		Collection.	Disposal.	Collection and Disposal with loan or depreciation charges and expenditure for new plant out of revenue included or excluded.	
				Included.	Excluded.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Boroughs and Districts with population under 30,000	15.3 cwts.	10 9	4 11	15 6	14 4
Hebburn U.D.C. 1938	20 cwts.	6 10	3 6	10 4	8 0

Central Administrative Expenses.

Amount allocated to service in respect of expenses of Central Administration, and included in Table B, as follows:—

Collection.	Disposal.	Total.
£65	£64	£129

Table C.

Table showing Costs for the Year ended 31st March, 1938.

Item. (1)	Particulars. (2)	Street Cleansing.					
		Street Sweeping and Watering, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		Gully Cleansing, with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.		Snow Removal with depreciation or loan charges included or excluded.	
		Included. (3)	Excluded. (4)	Included. (5)	Excluded. (6)	Included. (7)	Excluded. (8)
	Revenue Account.						
1	Gross Expenditure	£1937	£1937	£446	£446	£40	£40
2	Gross Income ..	13	13	—	—	—	—
3	Nett Cost	<u>£1924</u>	<u>£1924</u>	<u>£446</u>	<u>£446</u>	<u>£40</u>	<u>£40</u>
	Unit Costs.						
4	Nett cost per 10,000 square yards cleansed	13s. 8d.	13s. 8d.	—	—	—	—
5	Net cost per 1,000 gullies cleansed ..	—	—	£17	£17	—	—
6	Nett cost per 1,000 of population ..	<u>£84</u>	<u>£84</u>	<u>£19</u>	<u>£19</u>	<u>£2</u>	<u>£2</u>

Total milage of streets cleansed	27.92 miles.
Approximate mileage cleansed daily	1.4 miles.
" " " three times weekly	0.87 miles.
" " " twice weekly	3.05 miles.
" " " once weekly	22.6 miles.
" " " less than once weekly	—
Average length of haul to point of disposal	one mile.

Central Administrative Expenses.

Amount allocated to service in respect of expenses of Central Administration and included in Table C, as follows:—

Street Sweeping and Watering.	Gully Cleansing & Snow Removal.	Total.
£121	Nil.	£121

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.**Report of Sanitary Inspector.**

Health Department, Hebburn,

June, 1939.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,—

I beg to submit to you my 22nd Annual Report upon the work of the Sanitary Department for the year 1938.

The district has been systematically inspected for the detection of nuisances, resulting in the service of 355 Informal Notices.

345 notices are receiving attention.

A summary of Notices which have been served during the year will be found on pages 36 and 37.

The tabulated returns do not, of course, show all the nuisances abated after verbal intimation, and these are not included in the summary.

I am, yours truly,

ROBERT McKELLAR,
Sanitary Inspector.

General Sanitary Work.

During the year, 355 informal notices for the abatement of nuisances were served.

In no case was it necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

Factory Act, 1937.

There are 36 factories in the District in which the following trades are carried out:—

The Bushing Co., Ltd.

The Bede Metal & Chemical Co., Ltd.

John Bowes & Partners, Ltd., Monkton Coke & Gas Works.

James Black, Jr., Ltd., Builders, Bk. Glen Street.

Arthur Cook, Tailor, 26, Argyle Street.

Charlton & Co., Ltd., Garage, Victoria Road East.

Robert Cooper, Garage, Victoria Road West.

John Cairns, Baker, 65, Carr Street.

J. J. Donnelly, Undertaker, 58, Argyle Street.

Harold Davidson, Baker, 95, Cuthbert Street.

Rbt. Frazer & Sons, Ltd., Structural Engineers.

James Graham & Co. (Newcastle), Ltd., Timber Importers and Merchants.

R. & W. Hawthorne Leslie & Co., Ltd., Shipbuilders, Engineers and Ship Repairers.

Frederick Halliday, Builder, 34, William Street.

Irvine & Dyer, Ltd., Engineers and Ironfounders.

International Aluminium Co., Ltd., (Bauxite Works).

Foster, Blackett & James, Ltd., Paint Manufacturers.

Easton Scotch Bakery, 31-33, Tennant Street.

Hebburn Urban District Council Depot (No. 1).

Martindale and Hewison, Ltd., Garage, Victoria Road West.

N. McElwee, Milliner, 22, Carr Street.

Geo. L. McKenzie, Builder, Ann Street, and 11 & 12, Foster Street.

John Oake, Builder, Charles Street.

Pyrotenax, Ltd.

Palmers Hebburn Co., Ltd., Ship Engine & Boiler Repairers, Constructional Steelworkers and Galvanisers.

A. Reyrolle & Co., Ltd., Electrical Engineers and Manufacturers.

H. Raigoff, Ltd., Sisal Fibres.

Smith Bros., Ltd., Printers, Lyon Street.

Wm. Scott, Plumbers, Wreigh Street.
 Thubrons Timber & Creosoting Works, Ltd.
 Tharsis Sulphur & Copper Co., Ltd.
 Alfred Tollick, Baker, 113, Argyle Street.
 Vickers Armstrong, Ltd. (Hebburn Foundry).
 Whites Marine Engineering Co., Ltd.
 Wailes, Dove Bitumastic, Ltd.
 Geo. Warburton, Plumber, Station Road.

These Factories were regularly inspected.

Infectious Disease.

During the year, 269 notifications of Infectious Disease were received by the Medical Officer. When necessary the premises were inspected and the sanitary condition recorded and particulars respecting to the history of the case were reported to the Medical Officer.

Patients removed to Hospital	131
Houses inspected	131
Houses disinfected	158
Clothing and bedding disinfected (lots)	172
Visits to infected houses	393

Simpson's Hotel.

These premises provide accommodation for 376 lodgers, and are fitted with baths, steam laundry, and separate cubicles for each lodger. Several visits have been made to these premises. The removal of refuse from the premises is carried out by the Council workmen.

The total number of cubicles in the Hotel is 376.

North Block	111 cubicles.
West ,, 	154 ,,
South ,, 	111 ,,

Common Lodging House.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 238.

There is one Common Lodging House in the District, and it is situated at Nos. 81 & 83, Prince Consort Road.

The maximum number of lodgers authorised to be received at any one time into this House is 57.

The maximum number of lodgers authorised to be received at any one time into each of the several rooms in this House is the number specified in respect of such room in the appropriate column of the following table:—

	Description or number of room.	Dimensions or cubical contents of room.	Maximum number of Lodgers.
Ground storey.	No. 1.	297½ sq. ft.	7
	No. 2.	275 sq. ft.	6
	No. 3.	261 sq. ft.	6
First Storey.	No. 5.	372 sq. ft.	9
	No. 6.	150 sq. ft.	3
	No. 7.	250 sq. ft.	6
	No. 8.	280 sq. ft.	7
	No. 9.	286 sq. ft.	7
	No. 10.	257 sq. ft.	6

Cowsheds.

There are four cowsheds in the district. The general condition is on the whole satisfactory. These Cowsheds have been regularly cleansed and lime-washed during the year.

Dairies and Milkshops.

These premises have been frequently inspected, and in a few instances the occupiers have been warned against exposing milk to contamination.

Summary of Principal Inspections Made.

Reason of Inspection.	No. of Inspections
Dwelling-houses.	
General Inspections	52
Defective yard surfaces	12
Dilapidated out-houses	28
Keeping of poultry in back-yards	20
Dirty houses	10
Drainage.	
Choked drains	58
Drains tested on complaint	24
School drainage	—
Defective sink waste pipes, gullies, etc.	58
Offensive Deposits.	
Pond and rubbish burning, etc.	—
Accumulation of manure, etc.	24
Water Supply.	
Absence of water	—
Defective fittings	—
Registered and Licensed Premises.	
Slaughter houses	156
Cow byres	12
Milk purveyors	174
Common lodging houses	104
Infectious Diseases.	
Cases removed to hospital	131
Visits re disinfection	393
Removing bedding to disinfector	344
Disinfection of houses	316
Schools disinfected	20
Scarlet fever	207
Diphtheria	186
Enteric fever	—
Typhus fever	—
Measles	—
Varicella	—
Small-pox	—

Summary of Principal Inspections Made (continued).

Reason of Inspection	No. of Inspections.
Puerperal fever	—
Tuberculosis	140
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—
Factory Act, 1937.	
Inspection of factories	108
Total	2577

Summary of Notices Served for the Abatement of Nuisances.

	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied with or receiving attention.
Sink waste-pipes, to repair and trap	29	—	21
Yard surfaces, to repair or relay	6	—	4
Smoke	4	—	4
Roofs, to repair	65	—	65
Spouting, to repair	20	—	20
Floors, to repair and ventilate	40	—	40
Ceilings, to repair	16	—	16
Walls, damp, to repair	25	—	25
Water supply, to restore	3	—	3
Manure, to remove periodically	12	—	12
Out-houses, to repair	14	—	14
Windows, to repair sash cords, etc.	8	—	8
Scullery sinks, to repair	4	—	4
Scullery benches, to repair	6	—	6
Scullery set pot, etc.	2	—	2
Provide dust bins	13	—	13
Slaughterhouses, repair	—	—	—
Limewash, cowsheds	3	—	3
Common Lodging Houses	2	—	2
House doors	4	—	4
Defective water closets	10	—	10
Limewash bakeries	6	—	6

Summary of Notices Served for the Abatement of Nuisances (Cont.)

	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied with or receiving attention.
Yard door and door lintels	4	—	4
General pointing required	24	—	24
Pantry, to repair	6	—	6
Choked drains	8	—	8
Miscellaneous	20	—	20
Piggeries	1	—	1
Totals	355	—	345

Factory Act, 1937.

Factories in the district were regularly inspected and were found in order.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	In- spections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecut- ed. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ... 21	108	—	—
Factories without mechanical power 15			
†Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises).			
†Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Total ...	108	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)				
Overcrowding (S. 2)				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...				
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
Insufficient	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Unsuitable or defective ...				
Not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total				

**Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108 of Act of 1901,
Section 111 of Act of 1937.**

Nature of Work.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, etc.			
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Brass and brass articles			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, etc.			
Artificial flowers	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.			
Textile weaving			
Lampshades			
Total			

Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Failures to Affix Abstract of the Factory Act (S. 133)	nil.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	nil.
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	nil.
Other—	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101)—	
Certificates granted during the year	nil.
In use at the end of the year	nil.

(iv) SHOPS ACT.

No action was taken.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.**Noxious Fumes.**

Following complaints against the Bede Metal Co., the works were visited by Mr. Bride, the Inspector of Alkali &c. Works. As a result of this visit, a new gas scrubber for the main chimney gases was built. This has considerably reduced the amount of acid discharged into the air.

Nuisance from Grit.

Towards the end of the year, a series of observations was commenced on the deposit of grit from the atmosphere. The result of this will be available next year.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no swimming baths or pools in our area.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

	Council Houses.	Other Houses.
1. Number of houses infested	4	nil.
2. Number of houses disinfested	4	nil.

All furniture is disinfested by Cyanide Fumigation when Slum Clearance Tenants are moved into Council Houses. The work is carried out by a Contractor under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

All houses of prospective tenants of Council houses are inspected for vermin. 73 houses were inspected during the year.

The following is a list of houses condemned or overcrowded where the furniture was removed for disinfestation prior to removal to new houses. 177 were condemned houses, and 47 houses were overcrowded:—

School Buildings	4 houses.
Cross Row	12 „
Quality Row	— „
Chapel Row	1 „
Solomon's Row	— „
High Lane Row	— „
Fir Street	10 „
Oak Street	23 „
Ash Street	16 „
Elm Street	19 „
Wood Street	20 „
South Street	7 „
Railway Street	65 „
	<hr/>
	177
	<hr/>

59, Bk. Rose Street.
 201, Victoria Road East.
 2, Cambridge Avenue.
 185, Hedgeley Road.
 26, West Street.
 4, Thistle Street.
 55, Arthur Street.
 4, Blindburn Street.
 1, Cuthbert Street.
 59, Collingwood Street.
 61, Rose Street.

23, Bk. Edward Street.
 1, Rede Avenue.
 2a, Tweed Street.
 35, John Street.
 38, Shakespeare Avenue.
 85, Philip Street.
 197, William Street.
 124, Cuthbert Street.
 35, Holystone Street.
 3, East Street.
 57, Arthur Street.

8, Patrick's Place.	8, Thistle Street.
80, St. Oswald's Road.	2, St. Andrew Street.
10, Swindon Street.	16, Price, Street.
27, Caledonian Street.	22, Frederick Street.
55, Dunston Street.	13, Spencer Street.
113, Cuthbert Street.	34, Till, Street.
8, Glen Street.	39, Makendon Street.
57, Bk. John Street.	15, Blindburn Street.
13, Beaumont Street.	43, John Street.
49, Hedgeley Road.	23, Bk. Rose Street.
69, Jutland Avenue.	12, Holystone Street.
62, Rose Street.	81, Railway Street.
14, Bygate Street.	

47 overcrowded houses.

177 condemned houses.

224

Rats and Mice Destruction Order, 1919.

Mr. Gibbons the County Executive Officer under the above order, when requested, visited this district and gave his advice and laid poison baits where required.

4. SCHOOLS.

School closure was not necessary to check the spread of infectious disease.

SECTION D.**Housing.**

Health Dept., Hebburn,

June, 1939.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

Housing and Overcrowding.

I have pleasure in reporting on those duties which have been allocated to me by the Council, namely, Housing and Overcrowding, for the year 1938.

I am, yours truly,

F. J. THOMPSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

Inspections and Recording.

474 dwelling-houses were inspected, and of these 81 were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.

**Houses capable of being rendered fit for human habitation
at a reasonable expense.**

218 of the above 474 houses fell within this category. Preliminary Notices were served in respect of each house, 81 being dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936, the remainder under the Public Health Act, 1936.

All notices served were followed up and works in progress supervised. In this connection, 529 re-inspections were made.

As a result of informal action, 105 of these houses were made fit.

Statutory Powers.

It was found necessary to resort to Statutory Powers in the case of 12 houses and Statutory Notices were served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. 2 of these houses had been made fit by the end of the year.

Houses not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at a reasonable expense.

Of the total of 474 houses inspected, 142 came under this heading. Following the practice of former years, the owners of these houses were interviewed and given the opportunity to come forward with proposals to render the houses fit for habitation.

There are still many houses of this type remaining in the town, and very slow progress is being made at re-conditioning them. In some cases where the owners cannot afford to or will not carry out extensive repairs and alterations, it will undoubtedly be necessary to make Clearance, Demolition, or Closing Orders as the case may be.

Alteration and Re-conditioning of Houses.

The following alterations were carried out during the year. In addition to being altered, the houses (with the exception of the last two) were repaired and redecorated before being re-occupied. In this manner, houses which might otherwise be the subject of Clearance, Demolition, or Closing Orders, are made fit for habitation.

The alterations were supervised to see that they were carried out in accordance with the plans submitted and that the houses were fit for habitation before being occupied. 88 inspections were made.

33, Prince Consort Road.—Alteration of 2 tenement flats into a self-contained house and provision of scullery, sink, internal water supply, and food store.

23, 23½, 25 & 27, Prince Consort Road.—Alteration of 4 tenement flats into 4 self-contained flats and provision of sculleries, sinks, internal water supply and food stores.

- 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46, 50, 54, 58, 70, 74, Dunston Street.—
Alteration of 22 tenement flats into 11 self-contained
houses and provision of sculleries, sinks, internal water
supply, food stores, bathrooms, and hot water supply.
- 10, 12, & 14, Cuthbert Street.—Alteration of 6 tenement flats
into 3 self-contained houses, and provision of scul-
leries, sinks, internal water supply, food stores, bath-
rooms and hot water supply.
- 3, 5, & 7, Prince Consort Road.—Alteration of 6 tenement
flats into 3 self-contained houses, and provision of
sculleries, sinks, internal water supply and food stores.
- 25, St. Rollox Street.—Provision of new scullery.
- 25, Albert Street.—Provision of new scullery.

Clearance, Demolition and Closing Orders.

No orders were made during the year.

Demolitions.

16 unfit houses in Hilda Terrace were demolished voluntarily
by the owner as they were not worth re-conditioning.

Rehousing from Clearance Areas.

Rehousing from Clearance Areas scheduled in previous years
was completed during the year, and 177 families were rehoused by
the North Eastern Housing Association, Ltd.

New Houses.

The following new houses were erected during the year:—

By the Local Authority	—
By the North-Eastern Housing Association, Ltd...	140*
By other bodies or persons	232
	<hr/>
Total ...	372
	<hr/>

* Erected for the purpose of rehousing families from
Clearance Areas.

Summary.

A statistical summary relating to Housing is given at the end of this Report.

OVERCROWDING.

At the commencement of the year there were 833 overcrowded houses on the Register and at the end of the year, 699. This is a reduction of 134 overcrowded houses and is accounted for in the following manner:—

No. of overcrowded houses de-crowded due to rehousing of families by Local Authority	74
No. of overcrowded houses de-crowded due to change of tenant	80
No. of overcrowded houses de-crowded due to reduction in family	13
No. of overcrowded houses voluntarily demolished	7
No. of overcrowded houses vacated and altered	20
	<hr/>
	194
Deduct No. of houses which became overcrowded during the year	60
	<hr/>
	Nett decrease ... 134
	<hr/>

Re-housing.

Progress has been slow, due to the clashing of the Slum Clearance and Overcrowding programmes, the latter having to give way to the former. As, however, displacements from Clearance Areas were completed by the end of the year, the re-housing of overcrowded families should now be accelerated.

74 overcrowded families were re-housed during the year, 14 in Council houses which had become vacant, and 60 by the North-Eastern Housing Association Ltd. 28 of these latter families were re-housed from Clearance Areas, and the remaining 32 were

had cases of overcrowding re-housed in new houses which were surplus to Clearance Area requirements.

Housing Requirements.

It was estimated at the end of the year that the following new houses were still required to abate all overcrowding:—

3-bedroom houses	327
4-bedroom houses	122
5-bedroom houses	6
	<hr/>
	455
	<hr/>

Construction of the first 36 of these houses commenced early in 1939.

Housing Surplus.

It was also estimated that when the above houses have been built and occupied, there will be a surplus of approximately 400 2-roomed dwellings. This is due to the preponderance of this class of dwelling, of which there are more than of any other type, as shown in the following table extracted from the 1931 Census.

STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS OF						
1 room.	2 rooms.	3 rooms.	4 rooms.	5 rooms.	6-8 rooms.	9 or more rooms.
44	1,691	1,528	1,366	354	187	16

Of the total of 699 overcrowded houses at the end of the year, 421 were of the 2-roomed type.

These 2-roomed houses constitute a serious problem. If 400 of them, particularly those of the tenement type, were altered into 4-roomed self-contained houses before the re-housing of overcrowded families was completed, then, theoretically, there would

be no surplus, and the number of new houses required would be correspondingly reduced. At the present slow rate at which 2-roomed houses are being altered, however, a large surplus is indicated. The position regarding 2-roomed houses has been continually impressed upon the owners.

Continuance of Overcrowding Survey.

The survey has been continued in relation to working-class houses erected or altered and occupied during the year. 370 new houses and 22 altered houses were measured up, the number of occupants taken, and Form B completed in respect of each house.

Rent Books.

Rent books have been systematically inspected to see whether they contained the entries required by Section 62 (1) of the Housing Act, 1936, namely, a summary of the law relating to overcrowding and a statement of the permitted number of persons in relation to the house. As a result, 25 owners were communicated with regarding incorrect or missing entries in rent books.

Overcrowding Offences.

343 houses, where tenancy changes had occurred were visited to ascertain whether the "permitted number" had been exceeded. Only a few overcrowded houses were discovered and these were mostly due to tenants deliberately understating the size of their families. In a few cases owners had overcrowded houses in ignorance of the law. Generally speaking, both owners and occupiers have respected the law relating to overcrowding, and the few contraventions discovered were remedied without resort to legal proceedings.

Summary.

A statistical summary relating to Overcrowding is given below:—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	474
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1,091

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	81
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	453
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	142
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	218

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	105
---	-----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	12
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	nil,

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | nil. |

(d) proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | nil. |

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 699 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 701 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 4,351 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 60 |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 74 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... | 507 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. | — |

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936:—

11 samples of Grade A. T.T. Certified, Accredited, Pasteurised and Ordinary Milk, were taken and submitted to the Bacteriological Department, Newcastle upon Tyne, for examination during the year.

8 of the samples submitted were of a very high standard. The remaining 3 were of a low standard from a Coli content test. Action was taken in these 3 instances with satisfactory results.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 6 slaughter houses in the district, but only 3 are in use (2 for the slaughter of pigs and one for the slaughter of beasts and sheep). These premises have been inspected regularly and their condition found to be satisfactory.

The carcasses of all beasts killed on these premises were inspected. One carcase was found to be in a generalised tubercular condition and was condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and disposed of under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the number of beasts, etc., inspected and condemned:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed (if known) ...	63	—	3	342	127
No. inspected	63	—	3	342	127
<u>All diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
% of the No. inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	—	—	—	—	—
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
% of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.5%	—	—	—	—

ADULTERATION.

Durham County Council are responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 and 1927.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following list of samples taken in Hebburn Urban District during the year 1938:—

“In all cases the samples were returned as genuine.”

Almonds, ground	1
Ammoniated Quinine Tablets	1
Aspirin Tablets	1
Bismuthated Magnesia	1

Black Pudding	1
Bun Flour	1
Cascara Sagrada Tablets	1
Cocoa	1
Coffee	1
Jam, Blackcurrant	1
Lard	1
Milk, New	11
Milk, Pasteurised	6
Milkets	1
Pig's Cheek	1
Sausage, Beef, Preserved	4
Sausage, Pork, Preserved	1
Suet, Beef	1
Sugar	1
Tea	1

CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out by the Durham County Council.

NUTRITION.

When a child is removed to Hospital, an inquiry is made as to the source of milk supply of the family.

During 1938, out of a total of 123 cases, 33 took condensed milk. This is approximately 27%. Assuming that milk was not responsible for the spread of these diseases, and that these cases are a fair sample of the population of Hebburn, this means that about 1,650 families take their milk supply mainly from tinned milk. Some of these no doubt take fresh milk on Sunday, and probably some of the school children are able to avail themselves of school milk. But there must be a considerable number of children in those families who never have any fresh milk at all. It should also be borne in mind that many of the poorer families can afford to buy fresh milk in the summer months, when the price of milk is at its lowest, but during the winter when fresh milk is most beneficial to growing children the price goes up and the families go on to tinned milk,

SECTION F.**Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious
and other Diseases.**

There was no change during the year in the diseases compulsorily notifiable under the Notification Acts and Regulations.

Prevalence.

There was a decrease in the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year. The cases numbering 269 compared with 327 in 1937.

Scarlet Fever.—The prevailing type of disease was mild.

Diphtheria.—There was a decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria (101 to 60).

The incidence and distribution of infectious diseases notified during the year is shown in detail in the table on page 55.

Notifiable Disease	At Ages—Years.								Wards.												Total N ^o Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	No. of Deaths								
	under 1.	1 to 5					5 to 15					15 to 25					25 to 45							45 to 65					65 up.	at all ages	
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 up.	at all ages																							
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	W	C	N	E	V	M	S	60	62*	...										
15	8	8	4	5	4	4	1	...	4	3	4	8	3	7	15	8	5	14	60	62*	...										
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...								
...										
...	1	1	2	1	...	4	3	1	3	3	1	2	2	6	...	4	...	6	20	...	...								
2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	4	3†	...
11	6	3	5	6	5	...	...	1	...	1	7	6	6	7	1	9	9	7	45	...	...								
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...								
5	2	4	9	10	5	10	3	9	6	3	2	12	8	10	8	7	7	16	68	69†	...										
...										
3	4	3	3	5	3	2	1	3	4	3	2	8	3	6	4	6	3	6	36	...	...								
3	3	4	3	6	4	1	1	2	3	2	2	6	2	3	8	4	5	6	34	...	...								
...										
6	45	119	37	34	25	3	269	10	24	23	26	34	22	21	9	16	20	16	18	43	24	40	37	39	29	57	269	134	...		

* 2 Negative cases. † 1 Blydon, 2 Boldon. ‡ 1 Measles.

The following table shows the number of cases notified in each month of the year 1938:—

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Smallpox .....													...
Scarlet Fever	5	2	4	9	10	5	10	3	9	6	3	2	68
Diphtheria	15	8	8	4	5	4	4	1	...	4	3	4	60
Enteric Fever .....													...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....													...
Polio-myelitis .....													...
Encephalitis Lethargica											1	...	1
Pneumonia	11	6	3	5	6	5	...	...	1	...	1	7	45
Puerperal Fever .....													...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...											1
Erysipelas .....	...	1	1	2	1	...	4	3	1	3	3	1	20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	3	4	3	3	5	3	2	1	3	4	3	2	36
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary	3	3	4	3	6	4	1	1	2	3	2	2	34
Totals	40	24	23	26	34	22	21	9	16	20	16	18	269

SMALLPOX.

No case of Smallpox was notified during the year.

VACCINATION.

The following table gives details of vaccination carried out during the year:—

Births.	Vaccinated Successfully.	Insus- ceptible.	Died un- vaccinated.	Conscien- tious Objectors.	P.p. by Medical Cert.	Removed.	Percent. not Vaccinated.
395	99	—	19	189	9	29	62·3

SCARLET FEVER.

68 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as compared with 59 in 1937. There were no deaths from this disease during the year. All of the cases were removed to Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

60 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with 101 in 1937. There were 2 deaths, which is equivalent to a death rate of 0.09 per 1,000 population, as against a rate of 0.07 for England and Wales. 62 cases were removed to hospital (2 cases of Tonsillitis).

Diphtheria Antitoxin is available at the Health Department for the use of General Practitioners in the Area for suspected cases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—There was no demand on the part of the public for Diphtheria Immunisation. This was probably due to the absence of any great prevalence of Diphtheria during the year. The general level of immunity to Diphtheria probably remained unaffected by the extremely small amount of Immunisation done in previous years.

PNEUMONIA.

45 notifications of Pneumonia were received as against 87 in 1937. There were 21 deaths from this disease, giving a death rate of .91 per 1,000 population.

ERYSIPELAS.

20 cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year as compared with 14 in 1937.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

No cases were notified.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

4 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year as compared with 1 in the previous year. 3 cases were removed to hospital—1 to Blaydon, and 2 to Boldon. These cases are treated by Durham County Council.

The following table gives particulars of how the cases were treated:—

Notified.	Cases		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital				
4	1	3	4	—	—	—

POLIO-MYELITIS AND ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

1 case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified during the year.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

DYSENTRY.

No cases were notified during the year.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Whooping Cough.—There was one death from this disease during the year.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis.—There was one death registered during the year, giving a death rate of 2.5 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales was 5.5 per 1,000 live births.

Venereal Diseases.—I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following statement on the number of inhabitants of Hebburn who have been treated under the County Council's Venereal Diseases scheme:—

1938. 23 males and 16 females.—Attended Joint Committee's Clinic, Newcastle on Tyne.

1938. 9 new cases and 2 old cases.—Attended the Municipal Clinics, South Shields.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The total accommodation for cases of Infectious Diseases, on the recognised standard of floor space at the Isolation Hospital, is 19 beds.

The following table gives the number of cases treated in hospital during the year:—

Disease.	Total No. of cases notified.	No. of cases admitted.	Discharged cured.	No. of deaths.
Scarlet Fever	*69	69	69	—
Diphtheria	†62	62	60	2

* 1 case of Measles.

† 2 cases of Tonsilitis.

As already stated the notifiable infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis, were responsible for two deaths, the same as last year.

Both these deaths were due to Diphtheria, which was prevalent during the early part of the year. The 2 deaths occurred in our own Isolation Hospital.

The Death Rate from Diphtheria amounted to 0.09 per 1,000 population, and compares very favourably with corresponding Death Rate of the Country as a whole, which was 0.07. This reflects great credit on those responsible for the treatment and nursing.

CANCER.

There were 42 deaths due to this disease registered during the year, which is equal to a death rate of 1.82 per 1,000 population.

The following table shows the organs chiefly affected with the sex and age periods:—

Age Group.	Buccal Cavity.		Stomach, Liver, &c.		Peritoneum, Intestines, Rectum, &c.		Female Genital Organs.		Breast.		Lungs.		Other Organs.		Skin.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—45 years ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
45—50 years ....	...	...	2	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	I
50—55 years ....	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	3
55—60 years ....	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	2	I
60—65 years ....	...	...	I	I	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	2	I	...	...	4	3
65 upwards	2	I	4	I	I	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	13	10
Total	2	I	7	4	4	4	...	6	...	I	I	...	9	3	...	...	23	19
																		42

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—36 Primary Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received during the year, compared with 42 in 1937. There were 11 deaths due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System, which is equal to a death rate of 0.43 per 1,000 population.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—34 Notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received during the year, compared with 22 in 1937. Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was responsible for 8 deaths, giving a death rate of 0.36 per 1,000 population.

New cases and mortality from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1938 are as follows:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	3	2	1	—	2	1
5	1	3	7	10	—	—	—	3
15	5	6	5	4	3	2	—	2
25	6	4	1	1	2	2	—	—
35	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	19	17	16	18	7	4	2	6

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The Council supplies disinfectants and paper handkerchiefs for the use of Tuberculous patients.

There were 3 deaths from Tuberculosis in respect of which no notification had been received before death. These 3 posthumous notified cases represent 15.1 per cent. of the total deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

	PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS,					NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.				
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
No. of cases notified.	49	62	53	42	36	35	23	27	22	34
Rate per 1,000 population.	2.06	2.65	2.35	1.85	1.57	1.46	0.99	1.17	0.95	1.36
Deaths.	28	33	36	24	11	6	8	6	3	8
Rate per 1,000 population.	1.18	1.41	1.6	1.06	0.48	0.25	0.34	0.26	0.13	0.33

Year.	Births.	Infant Deaths.	Infantile Mortality Rate.	Measles Deaths.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Deaths.
1910	709	80	112	5	26
1911	747	94	125	14	26
1912	761	120	158	29	19
1913	811	98	122	7	25
1914	714	81	110	29	36
1915	749	82	109	21	31
1916	736	77	104	3	not known
1917	700	85	121	25	26
1918	751	99	131	1	55
1919	744	98	131	6	37
1920	888	107	120	3	28
1921	861	93	107	14	45
1922	772	72	93	—	27
1923	800	88	110	24	25
1924	784	63	73	1	38
1925	865	80	116	31	29
1926	699	68	97	3	35
1927	584	65	111	5	33
1928	640	61	95	—	32
1929	548	48	87	8	31
1930	525	57	108	5	29
1931	531	51	96	4	34
1932	442	46	104	3	33
1933	438	38	86	2	31
1934	464	50	108	—	28
1935	404	35	87	4	33
1936	430	39	90	3	36
1937	383	26	67	—	24
1938	435	30	69	3	11

